

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE EDUCATION CONFIRMATION COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, February 20, 2013 – 12:15 p.m. – Room 250 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Stephen H. Urquhart, Chair
Sen. Patricia W. Jones
Sen. Aaron Osmond
Sen. Stuart C. Reid
Sen. Howard A. Stephenson

Members Absent:

Sen. Mark B. Madsen

Staff Present:

Ms. Allison M. Nicholson, Policy Analyst
Ms. Debra Hale, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Urquhart called the meeting to order at 12:19 p.m.

2. Consideration of Proposed Appointment of Heather Groom as a member of the Utah State Board of Education

Ms. Groom introduced herself to the committee and described her personal and professional background. She answered questions from the committee, expressing her interest in and support of dual immersion programs. She stated that the country is on the edge of an educational revolution and sees the need and opportunity to educate children in foreign languages and cultures to prepare them to compete on a global field.

Ms. Groom described her support of online curriculum and spoke to her support of the constitutional requirement to educate children of all levels and needs. She answered questions from committee members, including school choice, participation in charter school startups and operating a charter school, the role of the Utah State Board of Education and the Legislature's role in education, and serving on the board in a non-partisan manner.

Sen. Deidre M. Henderson recommended Ms. Groom's appointment to the board by recounting her positive attributes of being passionate, fair, intelligent, and talented as they worked together in many capacities.

Mr. Mark Ursic, Executive Director, Renaissance Academy, discussed his positive working relationship with Ms. Groom and her professional strengths and ability to remain positive on contentious issues.

Mr. Chris Bleak, President, Utah Association of Public Charter Schools, discussed his interactions with Ms. Groom and her willingness to work hard and be engaged with details of issues to move things forward.

MOTION: Sen. Osmond moved that the committee support the nomination of Heather Groom as a member of the Utah State Board of Education. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Osmond moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Urquhart adjourned the meeting at 12:48 p.m.